

I strongly disagree with the rule changes proposed by the Federal Communications Commission, where cable providers would be able to count the value of the PEG stations themselves toward the fee they pay to local communities. This act would leave communities truncated, and would either have to allocate more local funding to keep the stations operational or face the prospect that the programming offerings would be severely curtailed. "The Internet and Television Association, a trade association representing cable and broadcast television entities, argues that the current system has imposed an "unnecessary burden" on cable providers and is slowing the rollout of broadband access. They go on to argue that the proposed restructuring would help counter these issues." This is an ignorant argument and little understanding of branding. Loyal customers recognize when corporations give back. This is the opposite. In fact passing this proposal will bypass the intention of community tv — local journalism & education. In today's climate with fake news, social media and corruption, we need now more than ever local journalism in multimedia. This move would hamper free speech, and documenting our challenges, voice, and decisions in multimedia for future generations. Both full- and part-time residents keep tabs on local government through PEG stations. In addition, PEG stations provide unique opportunities for area residents; everyone from senior citizens to teenagers can receive training on being on-air talent, or filming, editing or producing a television program. Preserving such coverage and opportunities seems particularly important at a time where online content is replacing virtually every other source of news and entertainment. You should consider investing more in community PEG stations, not cutting it down to save pennies and increase profit. Don't you realize what you have? I urge you to see past your numbers and recognize the potential growth. There is a better solution. Do not pass this proposed regulation, if passed, it would cripple cable access stations across the Cape and Islands as well as the U.S. This is your unique advantage, make it work for everyone.

Sincerely,
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